



## YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Do I need to be screened? How do I get screened?

The *FIRST* Youth Protection Program requires all *FIRST* teams to have two screened Lead coaches/mentors for the entire season and all volunteers screened for official events. Background screening is integrated into the team and the volunteer registration systems. Please see the screenshots available on the Youth Protection Program site for additional guidance on the screening process

No screening is required for team administrators. Administrators may register and pay for team registration fees during the registration period. Administrators are also able to invite lead coaches/mentors.

### 2. Do I need to be screened every year?

Screening is valid for four years. However, if you were previously screened, you will need to log into your *FIRST* account and agree to this season's Terms and Conditions, Consent and Release Form, Privacy Policy and the Youth Protection Program Policies. Once these four items have been checked, your screening status will be updated and displayed in your account.

### 3. Do non-lead coaches/mentors on my team need to be screened?

*FIRST* recommends if an individual participates in 30% or more of the team's activities, he/she is regularly involved with the team we recommend screening those individuals. It is a matter of the lead coaches'/mentors' judgment whether these individuals need to complete a background screening. Additional non-lead coaches/mentors may be invited by the lead coaches/mentors within their *FIRST* account as a team contact and may request that individual complete the screening process from their *FIRST* account.

Background screening is integrated into the team registration system. Please see the screenshots available on the Youth Protection Program site for additional instructions on the screening process.

### 4. How long will it take to get the Background Screening Report back? How will I know when it is complete?

Most background check reports will be available within 8-16 business hours. Screenings that require additional work or clarification will be available within 24-36 business hours. Occasionally a report may take longer due to response time from individual courts.

You will receive an email when you have successfully placed your background check order and another when the report is complete. The email will contain a link to the screening agency to enable you to view a copy of your report.

**5. Who sees my Background Screening Report?**

Only the Youth Protection Department staff and you see a copy of your Screening Report. The Youth Protection Department will not share that report or any of its contents with anyone unless required by a court of law.

**6. The Disclosure to Obtain Consumer Reports for Volunteer Assignment Purposes includes credit reports why is it necessary to share financial information?**

The Federal Trade Commission defines Background Reports as a Consumer Report. The Consumer Report referred to in the Federal Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) Disclosure is a Criminal Record Report. **FIRST does not obtain credit or financial reports.**

**7. The Code of Conduct states that “individuals who fail to adhere to the YPP Code of Conduct may be expelled. How is “adherence” measured, and what is the procedure for enforcement?**

We ask adults working with teams to monitor each other as well as the team members. To recognized that abuse does not happen suddenly but can be the end result of multiple behaviors leading up to the causing of harm.

**I want to volunteer for an event. Do I need to be screened?**

Per the *FIRST* Youth Protection Program event volunteers, who are 18 years of age or older, are required to be screened. For the purposes of this requirement, “event volunteers” are defined as the individuals who are assigned specific roles by the event’s volunteer coordinator and will be interacting routinely with youth participants. These roles are listed on the *FIRST* website and vary from program to program. Examples of these roles are: judges, referees, robot inspectors, pit coordinators, etc. Any volunteer who does not receive Youth Protection Clearance will be considered a walk-on volunteer.

**8. How are walk-on volunteers handled?**

Walk on volunteers will be assigned to work with a screened volunteer and not assigned to work alone with students.

**9. Do vendors or performers need to be screened in order to attend events?**

No. *FIRST* does not require that they be screened. However, some event venues may require screening for everyone.

**10. Is there an outline by program of level of emergency and security personnel required?**

Emergency service should be what the venue requires and what, event managers deem as adequate. This will vary from event to event, by program and distance to local hospitals, fire departments, etc.

Security personnel are not required by *FIRST*, but are recommended. However, some venues may require them.

**Screening questions should be directed to the Youth Protection Department  
at 1-800-871-8326 Ext. 207 or 250 or [safetyFIRST@firstinspires.org](mailto:safetyFIRST@firstinspires.org)**